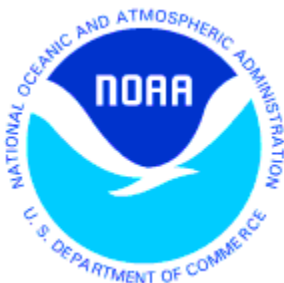




## **NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)**

### **Aircraft Flights and Mission Info Summary**

**March 2019**



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## Aircraft Operations

NOAA's fleet of nine manned aircraft is operated, managed and maintained by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations ([OMAO](#)) based at OMAO's Aircraft Operations Center ([AOC](#)). Located at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in Lakeland, Florida, the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) – one of the nation's seven Uniformed Services - officers, crew, and scientists from AOC provide capable, mission-ready aircraft and professional crews to the scientific community – see photo below. AOC is committed to the safe, efficient and economical use of NOAA aircraft and has more than four decades of experience developing, coordinating and successfully and safely conducting airborne environmental data gathering missions. OMAO's aircraft fleet includes the following platforms and the web links provide additional photos, information on each aircraft, and the missions they serve:

- [Lockheed WP-3D Orion \(WP-3D\) "Hurricane Hunter"](#) [Tail ID# N42RF]
- [Lockheed WP-3D Orion \(WP-3D\) "Hurricane Hunter"](#) [Tail ID# N43RF]
- [Gulfstream IV-SP \(G-IV\) "Hurricane Hunter"](#) [Tail ID# N49RF]
- [Gulfstream Turbo \(Jet Prop\) Commander AC-695A \(Jet Prop Commander\)](#) [Tail ID# N45RF]
- [Beechcraft King Air 350CER \(King Air 350\)](#) [Tail ID# N68RF]
- [De Havilland DHC-6-300 Twin Otter \(Twin Otter\)](#) [Tail ID# N46RF]
- [De Havilland DHC-6-300 Twin Otter \(Twin Otter\)](#) [Tail ID# N48RF]
- [De Havilland DHC-6-300 Twin Otter \(Twin Otter\)](#) [Tail ID# N56RF]
- [De Havilland DHC-6-300 Twin Otter \(Twin Otter\)](#) [Tail ID# N57RF]

In addition to the fleet of nine, manned aircraft, AOC provides oversight and guidance for all of NOAA's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) operations. Please visit [AOC's UAS Section](#) for additional information.



## March Mission Summary

Whether studying severe weather, assessing marine mammal populations, surveying coastal erosion, investigating oil spills, flight checking aeronautical charts, or improving hurricane prediction models, the AOC flight crews, scientists, and partners, operate all across the United States and beyond, including in some of the world's most demanding flight regimes.

The following Mission Summary provides an overview of the status or location(s) and mission(s) for each aircraft for the month. Please note all mission bases, projected flight locations, and mission parameters and requirements may shift based on changing needs and circumstances.

For the latest news from the NOAA skies, please visit the Aircraft Operations Center on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



### **WP-3D "Hurricane Hunter" [Tail ID# N42RF]**

Aircraft is undergoing maintenance and scientific instrumentation flights.

### **WP-3D "Hurricane Hunter" [Tail ID# N43RF]**

Instrumentation and outfitting will continue at AOC until mission-ready on June 30, 2019.



### **G-IV "Hurricane Hunter" [Tail ID# N49RF]**

**Who:** Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey GRAV-D Program](#).

**What:** Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D)

**When:** Present - March 27

**Where:** Based in Hawaii and American Samoa. The aircraft will conduct flights over U.S. Pacific Island territories.

**Why:** Grid pattern flight lines will be flown at 20,000 feet over Hawaii and U.S. Pacific Island territories while collecting GPS and inertial data to update the U.S. vertical datum. A vertical datum is a base measurement point (or set of points) from which all elevations are determined.



### **Jet Prop Commander [Tail ID# N45RF]**

**Who:** Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Weather Service \(NWS\), National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center](#)

**What:** Water Resource Surveys (Snow Survey)

**When:** Present - May 11

**Where:** Surveys will be conducted over Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

**Why:** The aircraft will conduct low level (500 feet) surveys to collect Snow Water Equivalent data for NWS River Forecast Centers. NWS Weather Forecast Offices and NWS River Forecast Centers use these data when issuing river and flood forecasts, water supply forecasts, and spring flood outlooks.



### **King Air 350 [Tail ID# N68RF]**

**Who:** Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey's Coastal Mapping Program](#)

**What:** Coastal mapping flights

**When:** Present - July 1

**Where:** TBD based on weather and tide stages

**Why:** These flights provide critical baseline data to help accurately map the U.S. shoreline. The data are important for national security, maritime shipping, and navigation.



### **Twin Otter** [Tail ID# N46RF]

**Who:** Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#), [National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center](#)

**What:** Water Resource Surveys (Snow Survey)

**When:** Present - May 1

**Where:** Surveys will be conducted over Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

**Why:** The aircraft will conduct low level (500 feet) surveys to collect Snow Water Equivalent data for NWS River Forecast Centers. NWS Weather Forecast Offices and NWS River Forecast Centers use these data when issuing river and flood forecasts, water supply forecasts, and spring flood outlooks.

### **Twin Otter** [Tail ID# N48RF]

Aircraft is used for training and scientific instrumentation until March 10.

**Who:** Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Ocean Service](#), [National Geodetic Survey's Coastal Mapping Program](#)

**What:** Coastal mapping flights

**When:** March 11 - July 15

**Where:** TBD based on weather and tide stages

**Why:** These flights provide critical baseline data to help accurately map the U.S. shoreline. The data are important for national security, maritime shipping, and navigation.

### **Twin Otter** [Tail ID# N56RF]

Aircraft is in scheduled maintenance until March 15

**Who:** Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service \(NMFS\)](#), [Northeast Fisheries Science Center \(NEFSC\)](#).

**What:** Northeast North Atlantic Right Whale Surveys

**When:** March 18 - April 1

**Where:** Based out of Cape Cod, MA

**Why:** The objectives of this project are to provide real time sighting information to commercial shipping interests in an effort to reduce ship collisions, to better understand the distribution and abundance, and to collect photographic images of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whales. With as few as 400 remaining, surveillance flights to track their migration patterns are important for conservation and recovery efforts.

### **Twin Otter [Tail ID# N57RF]**

**Who:** Officers and crew of OMAO/NOAA Corps along with scientists from [NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service \(NMFS\)](#), [Northeast Fisheries Science Center \(NEFSC\)](#).

**What:** Southeast North Atlantic Right Whale Surveys

**When:** Present - March 31

**Where:** Based out of St. Simons, GA

**Why:** The objectives of this project are to provide real time sighting information to commercial shipping interests in an effort to reduce ship collisions, to better understand the distribution and abundance, and to collect photographic images of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whales. With as few as 400 remaining, surveillance flights to track their migration patterns are important for conservation and recovery efforts.